


Remarks

Claims 1, 3-5, 8-16, 18-20, 23-32 and 34 are pending. Claim 9 has been cancelled. In the Office Action mailed September 16, 1996 claim 9 was rejected for obviousness-type double patenting over claim 10 in U.S. Patent 5,545,619. Applicant's response dated December 13, 1996 included a terminal disclaimer to obviate this double patenting rejection.

Cancellation of claim 9 would remove any double patenting issues and therefore remove any requirement for a terminal disclaimer. Applicants have concurrently filed a petition under 37 C.F.R. 1.182 to withdraw the previously filed terminal disclaimer in view of the cancellation of claim 9.

Allowance of claims 1, 3-5, 8-16, 18-20, 23-32 and 34 is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,


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AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING 37 C.F.R. 1.8(a)

I hereby certify that this Amendment, and any documents referred to as attached therein are being deposited on this date, February 5, 2004 with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.


Jenny Vicente

Date: February 5, 2004

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